

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

TYSON FOODS, INC., et al.,

Defendants.

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) **05-CV-0329 GKF-PJC**
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**DEFENDANT PETERSON FARMS, INC.'S
RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFF'S SUBMISSION REGARDING DESIGNATIONS
AND OBJECTIONS TO DEPOSITION OF KERRY KINYON [DKT# 2773]**

Defendant Peterson Farms, Inc. ("Peterson") hereby responds to the Plaintiff's submission of specific pages of Kerry Kinyon's deposition transcript and submission of State's Ex. 4009 attached as exhibits to the Plaintiff's Motion [Dkt # 2773]. Plaintiff cannot and has not established the foundational requirements for the admission of the testimony contained on pages 131:18-132:12 and 133:2- 133:13 or State Ex. 4009.

I. At the time of his deposition, Kerry Kinyon lacked the authority to bind or adopt any statement by Peterson.

Plaintiff's intended use of Kerry Kinyon's testimony is to have this Court draw an unsupported and inadmissible inference from State Ex. 4009 against all former contract growers for Peterson and all growers of the other Defendants regardless of whether those growers operated in and were subject to the regulatory framework and economic forces at play within the IRW. In order to use Kinyon's deposition for this purpose, Plaintiff must clear two hurdles: (1) the must meet the conditions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 32(a) by demonstrating that the deponent, when deposed, was the party's officer, director, managing agent, or designee under Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) or 31(a)(4); and (2) if these conditions are met, that matters contained in the deposition are admissible under the rules of evidence. *See Garcia-Martinez v. City of Denver*, 392 F.3d 1187, 1191 (10th Cir. 2004); *see*

also 8A WRIGHT, MILLER & MARCUS, FEDERAL PRACTICE & PROCEDURE § 2142, at 150. Plaintiff simply cannot meet either burden. First, Kinyon was not an employee at the time of his deposition and had not been designated by Peterson as a 30(b)(6) witness.

Second, although Plaintiff argues that Kinyon's testimony is not hearsay, it must meet at least one of the basic foundational requirements contained within the subsections of Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2). In order for Kinyon's testimony to be deemed an admission against Peterson, Plaintiff must: (1) show it was made in "a representative capacity" or authorized to make such a statement under subsections (a) and (c); (2) demonstrate that the statement was adopted by the company under subsection (b); or (3) show it that the matters were within the scope of the individual's employment and "*made during the existence of the relationship*" under subsection (d). Furthermore, Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2)(E) states that the statement alone is insufficient to meet this burden as it applies subsections (c) and (d). This is burden, Plaintiff simply cannot meet.

Kinyon at the time of his deposition was no longer employed by Peterson nor was he designated as a 30(b)(6). Plaintiff claims that it is beyond dispute that Kinyon's deposition testimony is not hearsay because it was made under oath. This unsupported analysis oversimplifies, and further ignores the foundational requirements listed under the sub-parts of 801(d)(2). In reviewing the testimony the State seeks to introduce, the following can be ascertained: (1) Kinyon "vaguely" remembered the document; (2) the majority of the questions seek to improperly have Kinyon simply read the contents of the document rather than testifying about his factual recollection at the time; and (3) finally, Plaintiff is improperly attempting to elicit an admission from a former employee who is not authorized to speak on the Peterson's behalf regarding the meaning of the email (133:2-7).

I. State's Ex. 4009 is Irrelevant, Prejudicial and contains Hearsay within Hearsay

The admissibility of State's Ex. 4009 suffers from the same fatal flaws as Kinyon's testimony regarding the document. The email identified as State's Ex. 4009 contains multiple layers of hearsay. As stated previously, pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 801(d)(2)(e), the fact that Mr. Bain wrote the email is insufficient to establish Mr. Bain's authority to speak for Peterson or that his actions were within the scope of his employment. Plaintiff has made no attempt to establish Mr. Bain had the authority to bind Peterson. Additionally, within the email, Mr. Bain is purportedly relaying the contents of a survey of the contract growers. Relaying the contract growers' responses especially when extrapolated to the whole is also unreliable and inadmissible hearsay. Plaintiff has also failed to demonstrate that either layer of hearsay is admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence.

Plaintiff has also failed to demonstrate that this hearsay falls within an exception under the Federal Rules of Evidence. This email is not a business record under Fed. R. Evid. 803(6). Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate that the email or the matters contained within are typically created and kept as a regular practice of Peterson's business. Thus, absent an evidentiary foundation supporting this conclusion, this email and any hearsay within the email is inadmissible.

In addition to the fact that Ex. 4009 is fraught with hearsay, the contents of the document are irrelevant in these proceedings. The State has failed to lay the proper foundation as to this document's relevance in this action by demonstrating it is limited or even related to growers within the IRW. *Assuming arguendo*, the Court finds the document relevant, the prejudicial effect of the document outweighs its probative value. Fed. R. Evid. 403. It is highly probable that growers from other watersheds including the Eucha/Spavinaw watershed responded to this survey. Because the growers within the Eucha/Spavinaw watershed are operating under a stricter litter application standard than those within the IRW, they may value their litter differently than those growers within

the IRW. This is a critical fact Plaintiffs did not flesh out in their examination of Kinyon. Plaintiff has clearly stated its purpose in introducing this document is to seek an improper inference that **in the IRW** “some growers would give the litter away if someone would remove it.” [pg. 2 of Dkt. 2773]. This type of inference has no meaningful probative value to this case. Whereas, allowing an unverified assumption to be drawn from a document, which does not clearly identify which watershed those responding to the survey were within, would clearly prejudice Peterson and the other Defendants in this case.

Peterson respectfully requests the Court grant its objections to the testimony of Kerry Kinyon identified at pages 131:8-132:12 and 133:2-133:13, and find State’s Ex. 4009 inadmissible.

Respectfully submitted,

By /s Nicole M. Longwell

A. Scott McDaniel (Okla. Bar No. 16460) smcdaniel@mhla-law.com
Nicole M. Longwell (Okla. Bar No. 18771) nlongwell@mhla-law.com
Philip D. Hixon (Okla. Bar No. 19121) phixon@mhla-law.com
Craig A. Mirkes (Okla. Bar No. 20783) cmirkes@mhla-law.com
McDANIEL, HIXON, LONGWELL & ACORD, PLLC
320 South Boston Ave., Suite 700
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103
(918) 382-9200
and
Sherry P. Bartley (Ark. Bar No. 79009)
Appearing Pro Hac Vice
MITCHELL, WILLIAMS, SELIG,
GATES & WOODYARD, P.L.L.C.
425 W. Capitol Ave., Suite 1800
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
(501) 688-8800

**COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT
PETERSON FARMS, INC.**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 2nd day of December 2009, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk of Court using the ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the following ECF registrants:

W. A. Drew Edmondson, Attorney General
Kelly Hunter Burch, Assistant Attorney General

drew_edmondson@oag.state.ok.us
kelly_burch@oag.state.ok.us

Melvin David Riggs
Richard T. Garren
Sharon K. Weaver
David P. Page
Riggs Abney Neal Turpen Orbison & Lewis

driggs@riggsabney.com
rgarren@riggsabney.com
sweaver@riggsabney.com
dpage@riggsabney.com

Robert Allen Nance
Dorothy Sharon Gentry
Riggs Abney

rnance@riggsabney.com
sgentry@riggsabney.com

Louis W. Bullock
Robert M. Blakemore
Bullock Bullock & Blakemore

lbullock@bullock-blakemore.com
bblakemore@bullock-blakemore.com

Michael G. Rousseau
Jonathan D. Orent
Fidelma L. Fitzpatrick
Motley Rice LLC

mrousseau@motleyrice.com
jorent@motleyrice.com
ffitzpatrick@motleyrice.com

Frederick C. Baker
William H. Narwold
Elizabeth Claire Xidis
Ingrid L. Moll
Mathew P. Jasinski
Motley Rice

fbaker@motleyrice.com
bnarwold@motleyrice.com
cxidis@motleyrice.com
imoll@motleyrice.com
mjasinski@motleyrice.com

COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

Stephen L. Jantzen
Patrick M. Ryan
Paula M. Buchwald
Ryan, Whaley & Coldiron, P.C.

sjantzen@ryanwhaley.com
pryan@ryanwhaley.com
pbuchwald@ryanwhaley.com

Mark D. Hopson
Jay Thomas Jorgensen
Timothy K. Webster
Gordon D. Todd
Frank R. Volpe
Cara R. Viglucci Lopez
Erik J. Ives
Sidley Austin LLP

mhopson@sidley.com
jjorgensen@sidley.com
twebster@sidley.com
gtodd@sidley.com
fvolpe@sidley.com
cvigluccilopez@sidley.com
eives@sidley.com

Robert W. George
L. Bryan Burns
Timothy T. Jones
Tyson Foods, Inc.

robert.george@tyson.com
bryan.burns@tyson.com
tim.jones@tyson.com

Michael R. Bond
Erin Walker Thompson
Dustin R. Darst
Kutak Rock LLP

michael.bond@kutakrock.com
erin.thompson@kutakrock.com
dustin.darst@kutakrock.com

COUNSEL FOR TYSON FOODS, INC., TYSON POULTRY, INC., TYSON CHICKEN, INC.; AND COBB-VANTRESS, INC.

R. Thomas Lay
Kerr, Irvine, Rhodes & Ables

rtl@kiralaw.com

Jennifer S. Griffin
Frank M. Evans, III
Lathrop & Gage, L.C.

jgriffin@lathropgage.com
fevans@lathropgage.com

COUNSEL FOR WILLOW BROOK FOODS, INC.

Robert P. Redemann
William D. Perrine
David C. Senger
Gregory A. Mueggenborg
Perrine, McGivern, Redemann, Reid, Berry & Taylor, PLLC

rredemann@pmrlaw.net
wperrine@pmrlaw.net
david@cgmlawok.com
gmueggenborg@pmrlaw.net

Robert E. Sanders
E. Stephen Williams
Young Williams P.A.

rsanders@youngwilliams.com
steve.williams@youngwilliams.com

COUNSEL FOR CAL-MAINE FOODS, INC. AND CAL-MAINE FARMS, INC.

George W. Owens
Randall E. Rose
The Owens Law Firm, P.C.

gwo@owenslawfirmmpc.com
rer@owenslawfirmmpc.com

James M. Graves
Gary V. Weeks
Woody Bassett
K.C. Dupps Tucker
Earl Lee "Buddy" Chadick
Vincent O. Chadick
Bassett Law Firm

jgraves@bassettlawfirm.com
gweeks@bassettlawfirm.com
wbassett@bassettlawfirm.com
kctucker@bassettlawfirm.com
bchadick@bassettlawfirm.com
vchadick@bassettlawfirm.com

COUNSEL FOR GEORGE'S INC. AND GEORGE'S FARMS, INC.

John R. Elrod
Vicki Bronson
P. Joshua Wisley
Conner & Winters, P.C.

jelrod@cwlaw.com
vbronson@cwlaw.com
jwisley@cwlaw.com

Bruce W. Freeman
D. Richard Funk
Conner & Winters, LLLP
COUNSEL FOR SIMMONS FOODS, INC.

bfreeman@cwlaw.com

John H. Tucker
Colin H. Tucker
Theresa Noble Hill
Kerry R. Lewis
Rhodes, Hieronymus, Jones, Tucker & Gable

jtuckercourts@rhodesokla.com
chtucker@rhodesokla.com
thillcourts@rhodesokla.com
klewis@rhodesokla.com

Terry W. West
The West Law Firm

terry@thewesetlawfirm.com

Delmar R. Ehrich
Bruce Jones
Krisann Kleibacker Lee
Todd P. Walker
Christopher H. Dolan
Melissa C. Collins
Colin C. Deihl
Randal E. Kahnke
Faegre & Benson LLP

dehrich@faegre.com
bjones@faegre.com
kklee@baegre.com
twalker@faegre.com
cdolan@faegre.com
mcollins@faegre.com
cdeihl@faegre.com
rkahnke@faegre.com

COUNSEL FOR CARGILL, INC. AND CARGILL TURKEY PRODUCTION, LLC

Michael D. Graves
D. Kenyon Williams, Jr.
COUNSEL FOR POULTRY GROWERS

mgraves@hallestill.com
kwilliams@hallestill.com

William B. Federman
Jennifer F. Sherrill
Federman & Sherwood

wfederman@aol.com
jfs@federmanlaw.com

Charles Moulton
Jim DePriest
Office of the Attorney General

charles.moulton@arkansag.gov
jim.depriest@arkansasag.gov

COUNSEL FOR THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND THE ARKANSAS NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Gary S. Chilton
Holladay, Chilton & Degiusti, PLLC

gchilton@hcdattorneys.com

Victor E. Schwartz
Cary Silverman
Shook, Hardy & Bacon, LLP

vschwartz@shb.com
csilverman@shb.com

Robin S. Conrad
National Chamber Litigation Center, Inc.

rconrad@uschamber.com

COUNSEL FOR AMICI CURIAE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE U.S. AND THE AMERICAN TORT REFORM ASSOCIATION

Richard C. Ford

fordr@crowedunlevy.com

LeAnne Burnett
Crowe & Dunlevy
COUNSEL FOR AMICUS CURIAE OKLAHOMA FARM BUREAU, INC.

burnettl@crowedunlevy.com

M. Richard Mullins
McAfee & Taft

richard.mullins@mcafeetaft.com

James D. Bradbury
James D. Bradbury, PLLC
COUNSEL FOR AMICI CURIAE TEXAS FARM BUREAU, TEXAS CATTLE FEEDERS ASSOCIATION, TEXAS PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION AND TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF DAIRYMEN

jim@bradburycounsel.com

Mia Vahlberg
Gable Gotwals

mvahlberg@gablelaw.com

James T. Banks
Adam J. Siegel
Hogan & Hartson, LLP
COUNSEL FOR AMICI CURIAE NATIONAL CHICKEN COUNCIL, U.S. POULTRY & EGG ASSOCIATION AND NATIONAL TURKEY FEDERATION

jtbanks@hhlaw.com
ajsiegel@hhlaw.com

John D. Russell
Fellers, Snider, Blankenship, Bailey & Tippens, P.C.

Jrussell@fellerssnider.com

William A. Waddell, Jr.
David E. Choate
Friday, Eldredge & Clark, LLP
COUNSEL FOR AMICUS CURIAE ARKANSAS FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

waddell@fec.net
dchoate@fec.net

Barry G. Reynolds
Jessica E. Rainey
Titus Hills Reynolds Love Dickman & McCalmon

reynolds@titushillis.com
jrainey@titushillis.com

William S. Cox, III
Nikaa B. Jordan
Lightfoot, Franklin & White, LLC
COUNSEL FOR AMICUS CURIAE AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION AND NATIONAL CATTLEMEN'S BEEF ASSOCIATION

wcox@lightfootlaw.com
njordan@lightfootlaw.com

A. Diane Hammons
Attorney General, Cherokee Nation
Sara E. Hill
Assistant Attorney General, Cherokee Nation
COUNSEL FOR INTERVENOR, CHEROKEE NATION

diane-hammons@cherokee.org
sara-hill@cherokee.org

I also hereby certify that I served the attached documents by United States Postal Service, proper postage paid, on the following who are not registered participants of the ECF System:

J.D. Strong
Secretary of the Environment
State of Oklahoma
3800 North Classen
Oklahoma City, OK 73118
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFFS

Thomas C. Green
Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP
1501 K Street NW
Washington, DC 20005
**COUNSEL FOR TYSON FOODS, INC.,
TYSON POULTRY, INC., TYSON
CHICKEN, INC.; AND COBB-VANTRESS,
INC.**

Dustin McDaniel
Justin Allen
Office of the Attorney General of Arkansas
323 Center Street, Suite 200
Little Rock, AR 72201-2610
**COUNSEL FOR THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS AND THE ARKANSAS
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

/s Nicole M. Longwell